

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 1-13, 16-21, 24, and 30 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 14, 15, 22, 23, 25 and 31 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 14, 15, 22, 23, 25-29, and 31 are currently pending in the present application. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims do not add new matter and have adequate support throughout the Specification.

Also, Applicant thanks Examiner for noting the allowability of claims 22, 23 and 31 if rewritten in independent to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 22, 23 and 30 have been rewritten in allowable pursuant to the Examiner's suggestions. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to these claims do not add new matter.

I. CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 12-18, 21, 25-27 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,897,400 to Scofield (hereinafter "Scofield"); claims 12-14, 16-18, and 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,282,410 to Sanderson (hereinafter "Sanderson"); and claims 19, 20, 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Scofield in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,154,384 to Owens (hereinafter "Owens"), also referred to as Owens in the Office Action.

Claims 12, 16-21, and 30 have been canceled herein without prejudice, thereby mooted the rejections of these claims. Additionally, allowable claims 22, 23, and 31 have been rewritten in independent form pursuant to the Examiner's suggestions, and remaining claims 14, 15, and 25-29 ultimately depend from allowable claim 22.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are allowable over the cited prior art. Accordingly, it is kindly requested that the rejections of claims 12-18, 16-21, 25-29 and 30 be withdrawn.

II. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are currently in allowable condition. Accordingly, reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims is therefore earnestly solicited.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail to Addressee (mail label #EV343719897US) in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 23, 2004

DOROTHY JENKINS

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

Dorothy Jenkins

Signature

August 23, 2004

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Faber

Robert C. Faber

Registration No.: 24,322

OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP

1180 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036-8403

Telephone: (212) 382-0700

RCF:BND